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**ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF AMENDMENT  
TO THE CLAIMS**

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## CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Amended) A search support apparatus comprising:
  - 5 a search condition registration section that registers object search conditions;
  - a communication section that detects a communication apparatus which exists in a communication area, receives information about the object under the control of said
  - 10 communication apparatus and transmits the search conditions registered in said search condition registration section to said communication apparatus;
  - a control section that compares the information about the object received from said communication section
  - 15 with the search conditions registered in said search condition registration section, transmits said comparison result to said communication apparatus through said communication section, receives the comparison result from said communication apparatus through said
  - 20 communication section and outputs a control signal for controlling a reporting operation according to both the transmitted and received comparison results; and
  - a reporting section that executes a reporting operation through the control signal output from said
  - 25 control section, wherein said search condition registration section registers personal information about a user who uses the apparatus and object information

such as characteristics and preferences of the person  
as said object search conditions, and

    said control section comprises a confirmation  
    section that confirms, when both said transmitted and  
5    received comparison results match, permission to transmit  
    the personal information registered in said search  
    condition registration section to said communication  
    apparatus and transmits, when the transmission is  
    permitted, said personal information to said  
10    communication apparatus through said communication  
    section.

3. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein said control section measures a distance  
15    from said communication apparatus based on the reception  
    intensity of the received signal by said communication  
    section, generates and outputs said control signal  
    according to said measured distance, and said reporting  
    section changes the contents of the reporting operation  
20    according to the control signal output from said control  
    section.

4. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein said reporting section comprises a  
25    vibration control section and a vibration section and  
    the vibration control section changes the intensity or  
    the period of vibration of the vibration section according

to the control signal output from said control section.

5. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein said reporting section comprises a sound  
5 information storage section, a sound reproduction section,  
a volume control section and a sound generation section,  
and the sound reproduction section selects sound  
information stored in the sound information storage  
section according to the control signal output from said  
10 control section, outputs a reproduction sound signal and  
volume control signal to the volume control section and  
controls the amount of said reproduced sound generated.

6. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to  
15 claim 2, wherein said reporting section comprises a blink  
period light-emitting intensity control section and a  
light-emitting section, and the blink period  
light-emitting intensity control section changes the  
blink period or the light-emitting intensity of the  
20 light-emitting section according to the control signal  
output from said control section.

7. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein said reporting section comprises an image  
25 information storage section, an image reproduction  
section and a display section, and the image reproduction  
section selects image information stored in the image

storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs an image reproduction signal to the display section and displays a reproduced image.

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8. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reporting section comprises a smell information storage section, a smell reproduction section and a fragrance generation section, and the smell reproduction section selects the smell information stored in the smell information storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs a smell reproduction signal to the fragrance generation section, generates fragrance in the fragrance generation section and changes the amount of said fragrance generated.

9. (Canceled)

20 10. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an image-pickup section that performs image pickup in a plurality of image-pickup modes,

wherein said control section comprises an image-pickup mode selection section that allows said user to select a desired image-pickup mode, applies predetermined processing to the user's image captured

in the selected image-pickup mode and transmits the image to said communication apparatus through said communication section.

5 11. (Canceled)

12. (Amended) A search support method comprising:  
a search condition registration step of registering object search conditions;
- 10 a communication step of detecting a communication apparatus which exists in a communication area, receiving information about the object under the control of said communication apparatus and transmitting the search conditions registered in said search condition
- 15 registration section to said communication apparatus;  
a control step of comparing said received information about the object with said registered search conditions, transmitting said comparison result to said communication apparatus, receiving the comparison result
- 20 from said communication apparatus and outputting a control signal for controlling a reporting operation according to both the transmitted and received comparison results;
- 25 a reporting step of executing a reporting operation according to said output control signal;
- a step of registering personal information about a user who uses the apparatus and object information such

as characteristics and preferences of the person as said object search conditions;

a step of confirming, when both said transmitted and received comparison results match, permission to  
5 transmit the registered personal information to said communication apparatus; and

a step of transmitting, when the transmission is permitted, said personal information to said communication apparatus.